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SOCCER WORLD

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30c

AUSTRALIA'S OLDEST AND ONLY INDEPENDENT SOCCER NEWSPAPER

Vol. 17, No. 7.

54 Renwick Street, Marrickville. — Tel.: 55-6877

March 1, 1974

Best in Australia

Red Tulip

CONTINENTAL
CHOCOLATES

Ampol semis will draw big crowd

Sunday's Ampol Cup semifinals should draw at least 10,000 spectators to Wentworth Park.

Pan Hellenic's second-ever appearance in a pre-season semifinal should see to that.

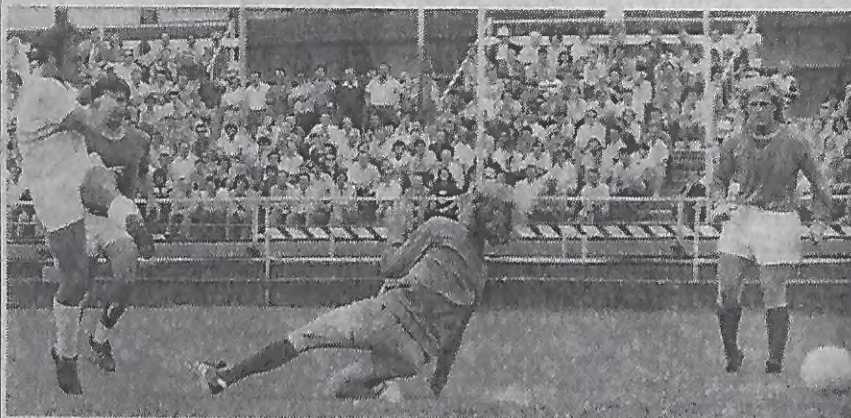
And, what's more, the way they are playing, they have sound prospects of advancing to the final as well.

The five preliminary rounds have attracted 61,000 spectators already — 10,000 more than the entire series drew last year.

Given the right sort of weather, the 1974 Ampol Cup will easily better 1969's record total of 81,000 as this week's play-off between Croatia and APIA will swell crowds further.

The winner of this match, which was necessary because both teams had the same goal-difference of +3, will meet St. George-Budapest in the semifinal and Pan Hellenic, winners of Group "A" will play Auburn, the second of Group "B".

Auburn reached the Ampol semis for the second consecutive year by thrashing Yugal-Prague last Friday. Marconi is the unlucky team of the series: they were eliminated without losing a match.



John Stoddart (in the white) scoring one of St. George's seven goals against Canterbury last Sunday.

PARANA 'NO' NOT FINAL

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Sydney fans may see the visiting Brazilian State selection from Parana after all.

Though the NSW Federation Executive at first refused permission to stage one of their matches against Australia at the Sportsground on March 26, there is a good chance that the decision may be reversed and that Sydney will get the fixture instead of Brisbane.

Parana have two matches scheduled against the national team — on March 26 and 28.

The second game will be played at Melbourne's Olympic Park.

They may play a third game, against Western Australia, in Perth — or in Brisbane if the Sydney match comes off.

NSW rejected the midweek match because they claimed it would detract attention from the championship, which will have just started then.

The Executive's other purported reason for their shock decision last week was that a match against the Brazilians could damage their own promotions, in May, when Bristol Rovers (English Division III), Chelsea and Aberdeen will play in Sydney.

NSW president Peter McCann claimed this week that the Parana match was "sprung" on his Executive without prior warning.

"The ASF handed us a letter, informing us of the match, only hours before our Executive meeting. Under the circumstances, with no time to consult the clubs, we could only decline.

"However, we are prepared to stage the match, and play our part in assisting the Soccerroos' World Cup preparation. If the ASF agrees to split any profits with NSW.

"We don't want a match fee — only a share of whatever profit is made in Sydney", Mr. McCann said.

ASF secretary Brian Le Fevre estimates that NSW's embargo on Parana would

have resulted in a loss of at least \$3,000 for the ASF.

Australia-Parana in Sydney, where Brazilian teams have always drawn well, would almost certainly attract at least 15,000 on a Tuesday night at the Sportsground.

In Brisbane they will be lucky to have 6,000 paying spectators.

The Australian team will play in Sydney on March 20, against the Auckland representative team, but because of the matches against the Brazilians, the first of the two planned games against the Australian under-23 team, scheduled for March 27, has been cancelled.

Brian Le Fevre revealed this week that Uruguay were still keen to visit Australia late in April.

However, they may not be seen in Sydney, though Peter McCann claims NSW have not yet been notified of their visit.

The ASF wants the Soccerroos to play twice against the two-time World Cup winners in what would surely be the most important international ever played in Australia.

Here's hoping that the Australian and NSW federations can come together once more to give Sydney fans a chance of also seeing Uruguay in action.

MORE SUPPORT FOR SOCCER

Eleven big Australian companies have associated themselves with Australia's World Cup bid.

Each of the firms will pay \$2,000 to the Australian Soccer Federation for distribution to players for each match they win in the first round of the World Cup finals.

The companies are also offering the Soccerroos \$1,000 each for every draw obtained in West Germany.

ASF president Sir Arthur George this week paid a warm tribute to the nationally-minded companies for their generous, history-making support to Soccer.

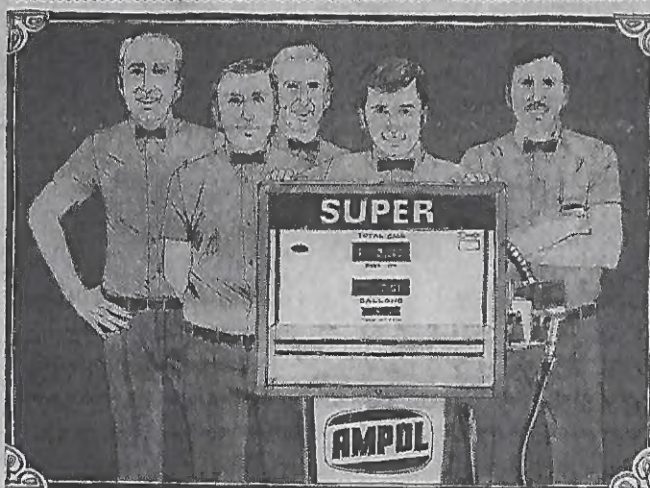
"Their action — which is unprecedented in Australian sport — is a true indication that soccer now has a national image, with support throughout Australia.

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE FOR MEMBERS OF

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Thursday, February 27: TALENT QUEST.

Saturday, March 2: DEE DONOVAN — Irish/American Vocal, Instrumental and Comedy Act

Sunday, March 3: STEVE STEVENSON — Top Mime Act. DANNY PURCHES — International Singing Star.

Wednesday, March 6: FOURTH HEAT SOCCER QUEEN QUEST.

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club patrol

Making a name as a cricketer in Brisbane is PHILIP BORDEN, who is also an accomplished soccer player. He was voted Northern Rivers' best player in Lismore against the touring Dundee side in 1972.

PETER TAYLOR, who started with Croatia and moved on to Western Suburbs, is now a welcome addition to the playing staff at Seymour Shaw Park.

The Australian team will play in a TESTIMONIAL match at Bankstown Soccer Centre on Wednesday, March 13 — one week before their match against the Auckland representative team at the Sportsground.

Sutherland have placed JOHN LAVIN on transfer for \$750 — a bargain for a very useful midfielder who has played in first grade the last four seasons.

The Soccerroos' new training ground on Wednesdays could be the HOLY CROSS' new football ground at Top Ryde. Once a rugby league stronghold, Holy Cross this week invited the national team to open the ground and to conduct a training session, watched by more than 1,200 students.

MARTIN ROYAL's television soccer segment will be seen on Sunday evenings during the championship. Instead of appearing at 7.20 p.m. on Saturday, Martin will have five minutes to himself at 6.55 p.m. before the Sunday news on Channel 2.

Soccer got a mention when the Prime Minister, MR. WHITLAM, spoke to West German Chancellor, WILLIE BRANDT, on the occasion of the opening of the direct color satellite link between Australia and Europe last week. The PM reminded Herr Brandt that his country would be uppermost in the minds of Australians when the World Cup got under way. "Australian soccer", he added, "is on the improve". The Chancellor was non-committal, simply assuring the PM that the Australian team would be "well looked after" in Germany.

Pan Hellenic defender JIM IZATT will be out of action for a couple of weeks, after undergoing an operation to set shoulder ligaments right.

Asian Football Confederation secretary, KOE EWE TEIK, in Australia to conduct referees' courses, will meet the Minister for Tourism and Recreation, Mr. Frank Stewart, in Parliament House, Canberra, today (Friday).

ROGER BAMFORTH, who was assistant to Rale Rasic at Marconi last year, has returned to Bankstown after two years as their chief coach for 1974. Bankstown are looking for an uplift this season with a wealth of young talent available in the area, and they are in hard training. Roger's only problem will be arguments he has with his partner Roger Dewick in their insurance broking business as to who will get the most time off to spend on soccer.

Congratulations to MIKE JOHNSON for the birth of a son, Damien, last week.

PAN HELLENIC have been presented with three complete sets of gear and four "Rale Rasic" soccer balls. The donors are the

It is believed that the stage has been reached where members of the Sydney Cricket Ground and Sports Ground Trust would be pleased if more major club games could be played on the Sydney Sports Ground. Whilst soccer gates are a very important part of the Trust's ground income now, and no doubt will be more so in the future, the high attendants' labor costs are the only thing stopping more soccer being played at the ground. It raises the question that we should soon also be finding fixtures which would require the Sydney Cricket Ground's extra accommodation to meet the public requirements, especially as it will be much more readily available than in the past.

wives of club president Mike Tsakalidis and vice-president George Kafalias, and Con Tsoulos.

Sutherland's transfer-listed star left winger, KEITH COCKBURN, returns from another successful season in Hong Kong this week. Cockburn has fully recovered from the broken ankle that kept him out of the Sutherland team for most of 1973, but has not yet decided whether he will rejoin the club or seek a new side. Speedster WILLIE RUTHERFORD is also expected back from Hong Kong early this month.

Western Suburbs delegate GERRY MESTRUM is proudly wearing a special badge presented to him by the PSSI (Indonesian FA). The badge makes him an honorary life member of their Association, in recognition of his assistance as tour Liaison Officer during their January trip. The catch, Gerry says, is that whilst he may attend their meetings as an honorary life member, it is over 6,000 kilometres each way, and that's an awful lot of hiking.

Third Division GLADESVILLE RAVENS have signed an ex-Corinthians player in Bob Morris. They will also retain the services of Steve Wood, who picked up 24 goals for them last year in his 24 matches for the year.

RAY RICHARDS was in Perth last week, in a promotional effort on behalf of West Australian soccer interests.

Pan Hellenic's UNDER-16 team is to be coached this season for the first time by the club's senior coaches, Rale Rasic, John Kalageros and Raul Blanco. The juniors will train once a week at

playing with Pan Hellenic reserves.

It was bad news for South Sydney Croatia when they learnt that both JOHN DOYLE and RUSSELL PAGE are facing cartilage operations.

UWE BRACKLOW, far below his usual form, was replaced in goal by PETER HOLMICK at the Sports Ground last week, after Auburn were three goals up and the teams were only 15 minutes into the match. Uwe had a cartilage operation some months ago and needs some hard work to get back to his usual touch.

The CORINTHIANS first and second grade teams, who so far have been training at Trumppark, have changed venues and will start training at Meadowbank Park this week.

Safeway are surely having more than their share of INJURIES. Drew Dunlop is out with cartilage trouble, David Allison has a broken bone in the elbow and Dave Rigby has a severely bruised foot.

Promotion-seeking Balgownie have signed striker WAYNE RONALD from Bellambi, Illawarra's leading goalscorer last season with 31 goals. Ronald, who is 1.86 m tall, has a fierce shot and should be a more than suitable replacement for Nigel McGuckin, who is returning home to Ireland. The club has also signed Jimmy Cannon, ex-Safeway.

OFFICIAL PROGRAM OF NSW FEDERATION

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

AMPOL CUP SEMIFINALS

Pan Hellenic v. Auburn — Wentworth Park
St. George v. APIA or Croatia — Wentworth Park
(Matches at 1.30 and 3 p.m. — watch daily Press for order of matches).

SECOND DIVISION PLAY-OFF

Marrickville v. Northern Districts — Mackay Park, 3 p.m.

NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY, MARCH 10

AMPOL CUP FINAL AT WENTWORTH PARK

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AMPOL CUP 1974



Tommy Morrow (left), Bobby McGinn and John Russell (6) in action in the APIA-Hakoah match last Sunday.

SUNDAY'S SEMIFINALS

HELLENIC, SAINTS TIPPED FOR FINAL

— By LOU GAUTIER —

Pan Hellenic and St. George-Budapest for the 1974 Ampol Cup final!
Pre-season form gives every indication that the two teams will meet on March 10 after disposing of their opponents in Sunday's semifinals.

Pan Hellenic will meet Auburn, but Saints must wait for the outcome of the midweek play-off between Croatia and APIA before they know the identity of their opponents on Sunday.

However, no matter who wins through to the semis, they will be the underdogs against St. George.

BEST TEAMS

Few can argue that Pan Hellenic and St. George have played the best football of the series so far.

But Auburn, too, deserve their place in the last four.

They have made the transition to Joe Marston splendidly and no one can take any credit away from them.

They are sure to give Pan Hellenic a fight all the way. Auburn will, however, find out that Pan Hellenic is no Yugal-Prague.

Their midfielders will not have so much room to manoeuvre. They could have their hands full defending against a Hellenic forward line which has been moving beautifully even without Gary Manuel.

Dave Harding, a World Cup Soccerer if ever I saw

one, and Agenor Muniz, whose displays this season have made every one of his critics eat their words, have transformed Pan Hellenic with their midfield mastery. Manager Rale Rasic, as distinct from coach John Kalageros, has Harding playing "à la Richards". Harding is fulfilling the role that was Richards' when Rasic was at Marconi — and hasn't Hellenic been the better for it!

Rokko De, whose wizardry has never been put to better use, must be the buy of the decade at only \$500. He has served his new club well and will continue to be a key player in Pan Hellenic's overdue bid for glory.

Peter Brankin, the mustachioed centre-forward with the deadly shot, is another Hellenic ace. Auburn's defence must mark tightly.

In fact, every one of the Pan Hellenic strikers and midfielders have turned out trumps and now that Ivo Rudic has completely settled into his new team, the Hellenic

defence, too, is standing its ground well.

Auburn, for all that, are not out of it, not by a long shot.

Their forwards have never been sharper; their defence is methodical and not easily impressed, and in Steve Hoszowski they have one of the finest young goalkeepers in the game.

Pan Hellenic get my nod, but their supporters should not get carried away. It won't be easy.

IMPROVING

St. George, improving with every game, can also brace themselves for a hard game, especially if their opponents in the semifinals are APIA, a team they can seldom shake off.

On current form, however, Mike Johnson's Saints look better than either Croatia or APIA, and they should prove it on Sunday.

Doug Utjesenovic played at the peak of his form last week, but he won't be able to join in so many sorties in the semis.

Croatia or APIA will launch far more attacks than the Berries. This week it may be the defence which will have to come to Saints' rescue.

Though Manfred Schaefer is still not in top form, George Harris' display last week was encouraging and the forceful fullback, in my book, is still very much in World Cup calculations.

Saints will be without John Warren, but may have Willie Hamilton back, thus releasing the indomitable John McDonald for more offensive duties in the "fetch and carry" role he relishes.

THE SEMI-FINAL TEAMS

PAN HELLENIC

MAGLIS
BARR
RUDIC
BARBOUITIS
BELL
STOWELL
MUNIZ
HARDING
BRANKIN
CARRIZO
ILE

AUBURN

HOSZOWSKI
LAWSON
HUGHES
MALONE
LEAK
McMILLAN
SIDNEY
STEWART
DELLER
KEDDIE
PARKER

ST. GEORGE

FRASER
UTJESENOVIC
G. HARRIS
SCHAEFER
COTON
STODDART
HERON
HAMILTON
ASONYI
B. HARRIS
J. McDONALD

TEAMS

APIA

ROBERTS
McGINN
JENKINS
M. CLARKE
McGHEE
RUSSELL
BLUES
ROONEY
OLLERTON
ROGERS
BUTLER

CROATIA

CORRY
N. CLARKE
M. HARRIS
BRADY
YAGGER
HUNTLEY
WHALLEY
NIXON
SULLIVAN
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VOJTEK

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FEASIBILITY STUDY

National League Competition

The Australian Soccer Federation proposes to prepare a feasibility study as to the advisability or otherwise of commencing a National League Competition in the 1975 season. Applications are being sought from:

- Existing First or Second Division clubs affiliated with any member of the ASF.
- Any combination of clubs referred to in (a).
- Any other organisations, other than those referred to in (a).

Applicants should apply for application forms from the secretary of the Australian Soccer Federation, 155 King Street, Sydney, and forward them through their own State Federation.

Applicants should bear in mind that amongst other things, the criteria which will be considered important in determining the suitability of an applicant, are:

- the legal status of the applicant — it is necessary that each applicant be either incorporated or undertake to be incorporated with expedition.
- The board, management and promotional personnel and plans of the applicant.
- The financial strength both present and potential of the applicant, in-

cluding sponsors or sporting organisations.

- Geographical situation of the applicant, bearing in mind the desirability of having participants from four States at least.
- Availability of players, present and potential, coaches and existing following.

In addition to the above, all things being equal in relation to the application of the criteria (a) to (d) inclusive, there will be considered:

- Application forms should be requested before 8th March, 1974 and be returned before the end of April.

The intending applicants will have the opportunity of conference prior to lodging their application, if it is requested.

It is stressed that the applications are not limited to existing soccer clubs participating in First Division and there has been no firm decision as yet to commence a National League competition in 1975.

This decision will depend on the feasibility to be prepared in the light of the applications received.

By order of the Executive Committee:

Sir Arthur George
President

B. Le Fevre
Secretary

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FINAL TABLES

GROUP "A"						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
Pan Hellenic	2	3	—	10	6	7
APIA	3	1	1	7	4	7
Croatia	3	1	1	9	6	7
Hakoah	—	3	2	3	5	3
West	—	3	2	3	5	3
Sutherland	1	1	3	3	9	3

GROUP "B"						
	W	D	L	F	A	P
St. George	3	1	1	15	4	7
Auburn	3	1	1	9	4	7
Marconi	2	3	—	5	2	7
Canterbury	2	1	2	8	13	5
Safeway	1	1	3	5	9	3
Yugal-Prague	—	1	4	5	15	1

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- ★ Tues. March 5: 8 p.m.
- ★ Wed. March 6: 8 p.m.
- ★ Thurs. March 7: 8 p.m.
- ★ Sat. March 9: 3 p.m.
- ★ Sun. March 10: 8 p.m.

ADMISSION \$2.00



WORLD CUP NEWS AND VIEWS



GOALSCORING IS CHILE'S PROBLEM

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

National Coaching Director Eric Worthington, who returned from his "spying" mission to Santiago last week, brought back a mixed bag of observations on Chile, whom Australia meet in Berlin on June 22.

Most significant factor was the confirmation of a general rise in Chile's standing within the South American football hierarchy — a point well driven home by Colo Colo securing a finalist position in the 1973 South American Champions' Cup.

The Chileans allowed that their draw with the USSR had been achieved through application of an ultra-defensive system.

It was also obvious that, despite their improved position in South America, they still find that goalscoring presents tremendous problems.

SIDE ISSUE

From these situations Eric Worthington wonders just what results will be produced when the no-nonsense East Germans play the subtle Chileans on June 18 in West Berlin, but that one will only be an all probability a side issue for us.

Unfortunately, Worthington and "Mirror" writer Tom Anderson, also on the trip, could not witness the club match that would have provided the real insights into top Chilean football — and this in spite of the friendly co-operation of the Lan-Chile airline officials.

It might have been possible to reach the stadium for the game, but the strict application of the curfew made a return journey simply impossible.

The main match seen was in Santiago's National Stadium and featured the Universidad Catolica team — a game in which nothing was at stake.

Certainly one and possibly three players were World Cup squad prospects.

The game produced slow build-ups, which culminated only too often in inept shooting.

A much more impressive picture was presented when the national under-20 team was viewed during preparations for their section of the South American championships.

The ball techniques revealed by the players were a revelation, but on those skills they relied implicitly.

Worthington classed their tactics as "nothing exciting", with one team denying possession to the other until the penalty area was almost reached.

Going further behind the scenes, he was most impressed by Chile's serious and exacting World Cup preparations.



Chilean national coach LUIS ALAMOS

finding delicacy in ball control and new methods must be employed", he said.

The other future credit he saw was that the trip had demonstrated that the day has arrived when Australian football must try its measure against the skills of the South Americans.

EXPENSIVE

Travelling there is an expensive business, but Worthington wants to see it come not only in national team visits, but more particularly on club level.

He believes that Australian teams will see their football in a new, exciting dimension when we try ourselves out regularly with South Americans.

World Cup Digest

● The West German Federation has refused permission to the Hamburger SV club to play a friendly match against East Germany in April. The reason, if true, is an eminently fair one: "We wouldn't like to give this advantage to the East Germans unless we can also make the ground, used during the World Cup, available to the Australians," said a spokesman.

● Nine Dutch national team members have threatened not to play in the finals unless their financial demands are met. They will not accept the \$5,000 per man the Federation is offering as World Cup appearance money. They want a 50-50 split of Holland's share of the profits, no more, no less. New coach, Rinus Michels, has given the players an ultimatum: "You have until March 1 to accept the Federation's offer or else you stay home in June".

● It's now official: Uruguay will be able to use their Brazilian-based stars in the World Cup. Mazurkiewicz, the brilliant goalkeeper; Anichea, Forlan and Pedro Rocha, have all been given permission by their Rio and Sao Paulo clubs to join the squad in April. However, Esparrago and Montero Castillo, who play in Spain, will only be released on June 2.

● There will be 12 special trains from Holland taking Dutch fans to Hannover and Dortmund daily for the World Cup matches.

● Spain scored an upset 1-0 win over West Germany in Barcelona last Saturday.

● The touring Czechoslovak Bohemians Prague beat Haiti 2-1 in Port au Prince in front of 21,000 spectators.

● "Hansi" Kresche, star of the East German team,

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BIG TARTAN INVASION PLANNED BY SCOTS

Scotland's World Cup countdown started 18 months ago against Denmark in Copenhagen.

Since then — and a 4-1 victory — Scotland have come a long way and now that the ultimate goal, the finals, has been reached, section rivals Brazil, Yugoslavia and Zaire will do well to understand the power and determination of the Scots.

Just as Scottish manager Willie Ormond is not underestimating any opponents, the other countries in Group II would be well advised to take Scotland seriously despite their ignominious 1954 and 1958 campaigns.

Ormond is keenly aware of what faces his men.

ON BRAZIL he says: "I know they beat us in Glasgow last year, but Scotland has improved tremendously since then. We are not in the least afraid of them. Of course, they are one of the finest teams around, but we will be better prepared when the World Cup comes along."

ON YUGOSLAVIA: "Scotland has a good record against them, but I would have preferred to play Spain."

The Yugoslavs, when in the mood, can beat any team in the world. Let's hope June 22 is not one of these days."

ON ZAIRE: "They will be our first game in Germany and they will get every respect from us."

Ormond has assembled a fine squad around him.

He has the skills of Kenny Dalglish, Willie Morgan, Tommy Hutchison and Jimmy Smith; the rugged determination of Jim Holton, Billy Bremner, Sandy Jardine and Davie Hay; the solid last line of Davie Harvey and Ally Hunter; the flair and menace of Dennis Law and Peter Lorimer and the craft of Danny McGrain, George Connolly and John Blackley.

These are some of the names that will make up the final pool that will be ready for the assault on the World Cup.

The tartan invasion could well be a feature of this World Cup. We can only hope...

— ALEX GORDON
("World Soccer")

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WORLD CUP NEWS AND VIEWS



"KAISER FRANZ" IS WARY OF SOCCEROOS



Franz Beckenbauer (pictured here, face to the camera with Gerd Müller and Tarcisio Burgnich in the sensational 1970 World Cup semifinal in Mexico) has sounded a note of warning to his West German team-mates: "Don't underestimate the Australians."

Beckenbauer, a close friend of top FIFA coach Dettmar Cramer, who will join Hertha Berlin in July, believes Cramer who has gone to great lengths to shake off West and East German complacency.

Cramer, who knows Australian soccer inside-out, is convinced the Socceroos will not be trounced in the World Cup.

"Anyone who believes they are rabbits has a shock coming," he warns.

Beckenbauer has taken him to his word.

The elegant Bayern München halfback, "Kaiser Franz" to his legions of adoring fans, will take no chances.

One of the best players in both the 1966 and 1970 World Cups, when Germany came second and third respectively, he is determined to go one better this year.

No Australian "upstarts" are going to deny West Germany a second world title.

It will take a super Australian team to wrest the midfield from this complete footballer of all-round ability when the big day comes in Hamburg on June 18.

YUGOSLAV FEUDS NO BAR TO SUCCESS

Yugoslavia's disgruntled, itchy-footed professionals gathered all their wits and skills for one supreme effort against Spain to ensure their qualification for the World Cup finals.

The result was a comfortable 1-0 win (could have been 3-0) and a sparkling display which deeply impressed many critics.

Said England's Malcolm Allison after the match: "This Yugoslavia is quite capable of pulling one of the Cup's biggest surprises. I think they can even win the damned thing."

The Yugoslavs themselves are more cautious; mainly because they happen to know their own players better than Allison.

They know, for example, that more than half the team that outclassed Spain in Frankfurt on February 13 are involved in deep negotiations with German and French clubs to secure their future after the World Cup.

That, they claim, was the true motivation for the "Playis" (blues) to rise to the occasion.

FEUDS

However, even this vital victory is unlikely to settle the deep-running feuds among the leaders of Yugoslav football.

It all started a few months ago when a clique of influential men — many of

them club coaches — staged a palace revolution, demanding that sole selector and manager Vujadin Boskov surrender his privileged position and be absorbed in a larger committee.

When the committee was duly appointed, Boskov resigned, leaving nine men (!) in charge of the national team — exceeding even the bad old days in England when Winterbottom was shackled with a large selection committee.

However, the last 100 days since the revolution have failed to produce an acceptable solution to this idiotic problem.

Miljan Miljanic, the Red Star manager (reportedly going to Benfica or Real Madrid soon) has become the front man of this nameless, heterogeneous committee.

But even the stern, tough Miljanic has failed in his attempt to achieve some orchestration.

Split's Lav hotel, where the committee held its last deliberations, was the scene of some almighty rows and the nine experts often came within inches of blows.

That was the mood before the Frankfurt match — and that's why it is even

— From PETAR MESKOVIC in Belgrade —

more amazing that the team was able to leave all the feuding behind and wipe the withered turf of the Waldstadion with Spain.

At this stage the Yugoslav Association has not yet decided who will be in charge of the team during the World Cup; surely they cannot even contemplate on continuing with the nine-men committee.

Miljanic is the best bet — if the others allow him to work. He is the only one who has proved, with Red Star, that he brooks no nonsense from any of his players, even the stars.

Quite a few of them actually need a strong hand to keep them within the accepted limits of discipline.

Fullback Bogicevic, the clown of the team, often confuses practical jokes with irresponsibility; at the training camp he took over the wheels of the team's bus and chased pedestrians — on the footpath.

The great Djazic simulated injury in the last training match in order not to risk real injury and miss the Frankfurt battle — where several German and French managers appeared purely to admire his talents.

Goalkeeper Mario, another one certain to leave Yugoslavia after the Cup, has grown an Omar Sharif moustache — allegedly at the request of a foreign blade manufacturer with whom he is negotiating for a contract.

However, the majority of the players are blameless: they gave all they had during the preparations as well as in Frankfurt and, considering their talents, could really do well in the finals.

Should that be the case, it's likely that those over

the age of 28 — Mario, Buljan, Katalinski, Oblak and Djazic — will vanish from the Yugoslav scene.

Due to the drastic re-organisation of the soccer set-up, the once mammoth earnings of players have dropped; it's increasingly difficult to get even the customary under-the-counter bonuses to supplement their incomes.

This and no other reason has induced the present stars to seek their fame and fortune with foreign clubs.

FORMIDABLE

Just in case any of my Australian readers jump to the wrong conclusion, let me make something clear: Yugoslavia's national team at present is a truly formidable one.

In Frankfurt they outplayed and out-thought the stereotyped Spaniards. Buljan and Oblak were quite brilliant as playmakers while Petkovic and Djazic proved too elusive for the Spanish defence.

After the match, former German manager Sepp Herberger said the Yugoslavs should have won at least 2-0.

Zagaló, the Brazilian manager was disappointed with the result; he would have much preferred to meet Spain in the World Cup.

But perhaps the most tongue-in-cheek comment came from Willie Ormond, the Scottish team boss:

"Yugoslavia's qualification will cost Brazil plenty," he said. "From this group the Yugoslavs and the Scots will qualify. The world champions won't like the fast and tough style of these two opponents. I'm truly sorry for the Brazilians."

Munich will love Haiti

Munich is the home of the fairest and most affable sports spectators.

This judgment was passed after the 1972 Olympic Games by the association of sports writers in the Federal Republic of Germany, and the organisation presented its annual "fair play trophy" to the city's governing mayor, acting on behalf of all visitors to the Olympic Games.

Indeed, Munich people set new standards then. The Bavarian metropole will be playing host to another sporting event of almost Olympic proportions in the early summer of 1974.

Five matches in the World Cup, including the final and the duel for third place, will be played beneath the bizarre and controversial tented roof of the Olympic stadium.

Will Munich people once again provide a gentlemanly setting?

To be able to answer this, we must conduct a brief analysis of Munich soccer enthusiasts, whose first reaction to the World Cup finals already is known — they're a little sour at the fact that, of the 75,000 tickets for the final game, only 10,200 are earmarked for local people.

The Munich soccer fan is sometimes "blue" and sometimes "red", mainly the former.

In simpler language, this means that he tries to divide his sympathies equitably between the redclad players of "FC Bayern", the German champions, and the blue-jerseyed lads of "TSV 1860" the number two team.

Very often, the hearts of Munich's loyal soccer followers ache for the less fortunate, though more traditional "blues", particularly when they show signs of aspiring to top position again.

Last August, when "TSV 1860 Munich" played the team from neighboring Augsburg, the Olympic stadium was almost bursting at the seams, and police and first-aid men had their hands full.

Munich fans are just too ready to make sacrifices for "TSV 1860".

This illustrates one Munich characteristic — the locals throw heart and soul into supporting the weaker side.

And they are far from sparing with criticism of the reigning champions.

When Munich football followers were expensive witnesses of Argentina's 3-2 victory over the German national team in the spring of 1973, they felt cheated — and showed it by booing the German players out of the arena.

Team manager Helmut Schoen made no secret of his annoyance, and there were demands that the "eternal malcontents" of Munich should have no more international matches on their territory for the foreseeable future.

Anyone setting foot on the sacred turf beneath the tented arena roof this year should bear one thing in mind — performance and a leaning toward sentimental tradition-consciousness are supreme criteria for Munich people.

Haiti, who play all their Group III matches there, will receive tremendous support from the Bavarians.

Italy, Poland and Argentina, they'll boo ferociously when they tackle the Central American underdogs.

— MICHAEL GERNANDT
(I.N. Bild).

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World Cup Technical Study Group

The Technical Study Group for the 1974 World Cup has been selected. The Group will work under the Chairman of FIFA's Technical Committee, Harry Cavan (Northern Ireland). The Director is Walter Winterbottom, as we reported in a recent issue of "Soccer World", the secretary Rene Courte (Luxemburg), FIFA's Public Relations and Press Officer, and the members are Dettmar Cramer (West Germany), the FIFA coach, Stefan Kovacs, coach of the French national team, and Jose Bonetti (Brazil). FIFA confirmed the setting up of the group after the useful technical information gathered by similar panels in 1966 in England and in 1970 in Mexico.

Milanese coach trouble

Nereo Rocco has been sacked as coach of Milan AC. His temporary replacement is the former international defender Maldini. Coach of neighboring Inter, Helenio Herrera, is also out of action. HH is sick in hospital, suffering from an undisclosed ailment and could be out of circulation for six months.

Turkey's 50th anniversary

The Turkish FA celebrated its 50th anniversary last month. FIFA was represented by its vice-president, Frenchman Antoine Chiarisoli, who presented the Jubilee Association with a gift in the name of all national federations affiliated to FIFA and offered best wishes for the prosperous development of the Turkish Football Federation.

How Rale Rasic would love this... Nigeria have gathered a 37-man strong squad, told their clubs that they cannot use them in matches and secreted them near Benin, the midwest capital, to get ready for the qualifying rounds of the Olympic Games. The National Sports Commission will find them jobs and they will virtually be available for training and match practice as professionals. In charge of these "Green Eagles", as they are to be known, will be a West German, Oimar Calder.

● A 19-year-old black African is wowing soccer crowds in Lisbon. Angola-born Jose Pedro is being hailed as the new "Eusebio" — not the first colonial to be tagged thus. However, this time experts may be right. He does look good and his club, Benfica, are convinced he will eventually become even bigger than Eusebio.

● New Zealand international striker Mal Bland has returned to his native England. Bland played in the 1969 and 1973 New Zealand World Cup bids. He will try his luck with Newcastle United.

● What would Australian clubs say? Last year the Toronto Metros of Canada, took in \$240,000, while the cost of operating the club was \$375,000. Only a loan guarantee of \$250,000 from the province of Ontario saved them from extinction.

● Wellington has become the strongest numerical area for soccer in New Zealand. Wellington last year had 453 teams, a 15% increase on the previous year. Nationally, the number of soccer players and teams increased by about five percent while junior teams increased by just under 10 percent in 1973.

● The Austrian FA is scouting around for an assistant to their national team coach Leopold Stastny, their fourteenth since the war. It is intended that the new man eventually takes over from the Czechoslovak-born Stastny.

● The revelation of the Uruguayan First Division, won by Penarol, who thus ended Nacional's run of four titles in a row, was Penarol's 21-year-old centre-forward Fernando Morena, on loan from Argentina's River Plate. He has been named Player of the Year and included in the national squad following his 22 league goals. Brazil's Vasco de Gama want to sign him after the World Cup finals.

● George Best is keen to move to South Africa. "I'll never play in England again," he vowed. "Everybody is out to get me there."

World Cup Press accreditation

It was a delegation from the FIFA Press Committee, consisting of deputy-chairman Dr. Giuseppe Tito Bardigotta (Italy), Antoine Herbauts (Belgium), FIFA Press Officer Rene Courte, and the Director of the Press Department of the West German World Cup Organising Committee, Dr. Wilfried Gerhardt, which was entrusted to decide upon the applications for World Cup Press accreditations. These were confirmed to more than 2,100 journalists last week.

South Africa wants ban lifted

South Africa, who were suspended by FIFA in 1964 because of their apartheid approach, are trying to get the ban on short-term contracted players rescinded. South African FA president, Dave Marais, and FIFA president Sir Stanley Rous have had talks in an effort to sort things out. It would be a blow to the game in South Africa if they could not use the British players as they have done in the past few years.

European Youth Championships

The Youth Tournaments in Europe for 1974 and 1975 have been awarded to Sweden and Switzerland. At their last meeting, the UEFA Executive Committee examined candidatures for 1976 and 1977 and decided to stage these championships in the following countries: 1976 in Hungary and 1977 in Belgium.

● Numerous African fans living in Europe have decided to start saving. They hope to go to West Germany in June to support the Zaire team, the first Black African side to qualify for the finals.

● Otto Westphal, a West German, has been appointed national coach of Uganda. Westphal was in charge of South Vietnam when they played Australia in the 1967 Saigon International Tournament.

● Jean Antonio Scasso, the Uruguayan architect who designed the Estadio Centenario, venue of the 1930 World Cup final in Montevideo, has died at the age of 81. The stadium, one of the biggest in the world at the time, was finished only three days before the inauguration of the first World Cup, on July 9, 1930.

● International Portuguese referee, Fernandes Leite, died in a car accident whilst returning from officiating at the championship match between Benfica and Sporting Lisbon. Also dead is a Bulgarian international referee, Nikola Milanov, who was only 38.

● The 12th Central American Games are now being held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with the participation of 12 countries.

● The fifth Youth Tournament of CONCACAF (the North and Central American Football Confederation) will be held in Ontario, Canada, from August 17 to September 2 this year.

● Radical reorganisation is the order of the day in Hungarian soccer. The number of teams in the various national divisions will be reduced from 226 to 116 to improve the quality.

● Lothar Emmerich, former German international and now with Klagenfurt, has become an Austrian citizen.

● The West German VfB Stuttgart which toured Australia a few years ago, will pay a "crowd bonus" next season to all players. A level of 19,000 spectators has been set as the norm.

● Soccer's popularity is reflected by 93 countries issuing stamps to celebrate the World Cup. But not Australia, of course...

● Kidemu, captain of Zaire, once played with the Belgian Anderlecht for some seasons — in the reserve team.

● Buenos Aires club River Plate has made an offer for Eusebio. The Argentinians are prepared to pay him \$40,000 a year until he retires. But Eusebio, 32, is not all that keen to leave Portugal despite his obvious decline.

● The Mexican FA is looking for a foreign coach to take their team to the 1978 World Cup finals. The country still hasn't recovered from last year's elimination by Haiti. Attendances have slumped and the fans' mood is decidedly morose.

● Portugal's leading goalscorer, Sporting Lisbon's Argentinian, Yazalde, is being treated by a leading English specialist for a nagging thigh injury. He may be sidelined for one month. Yazalde has been carrying the injury since he was savaged in a league match in Buenos Aires three years ago.

● Alfredo Di Stefano is to write a book and tell the mysteries and controversies that kept his name in the headlines for so many years.

● Some time this year the French Federation will issue its one millionth registration form. Ten years ago there were "only" 600,000 registered players in the country, where rugby union is still the most popular sport in the south-west. Only West Germany and the Soviet Union have more registered players in Europe.

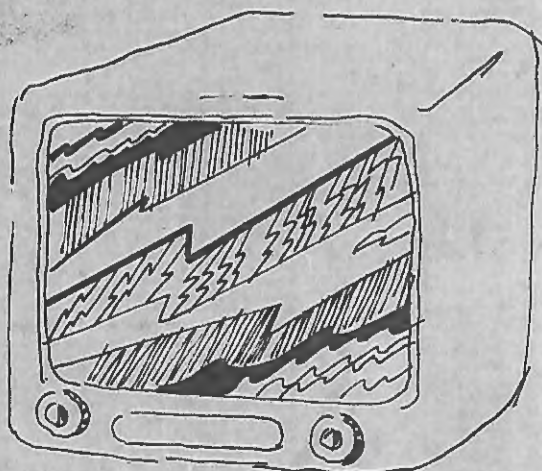
● Now that Yugoslavia have qualified for the World Cup finals, Milan Miljanovic is given no chance of coaching Real Madrid. Ferenc Puskas is being tipped as Miguel Monoz' successor when his contract with Panathinaikos expires in June.

● The career of Manchester United's Ian Moore is over after two unsuccessful ankle operations. Moore has opened a handromat with his insurance cheque.

● China's new ambassador to Spain, Chou-Chao-Yuan, has been made an honorary member of Real Madrid. A former soccer player, he has rarely missed a match at the Bernabeu Stadium since his posting.

● Former Austrian great, Ernst Happel, left his Second Division Spanish club to take over as coach of alling Belgian champions, FC Bruges.

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RESULTS & SCORERS

Auburn

4 (3)

Sidney 1 min., Malone 14 and 15 mins., Stewart 55 min.

Yugal-Prague

0 (0)

P. Hellenic

2 (1)

Harding 13 min., Brankin 45 min.

Croatia

1 (0)

D. Smith 25 min. (penalty).

St. George

7 (4)

Abonyi 2, 31, 63 (all penalties) and 66 mins., Utjesenovic 6 min., Stoddart 25 min., Herron 47 min.

Canterbury

0 (0)

A.P.I.A.

1 (0)

Ollerton 67 min.

Hakoah

0 (0)

West's

0 (0)

Sutherland

0 (0)

Marconi

1 (1)

Jones 15 min.

Safeway

0 (0)

HOW THEY LINED UP

Hoszowski 4, Lawson 3, Hughes 4, Malone 5, Leak 4, McMillan 4, Sidey 4, Stewart 3, Deller 2, Keddie 3, Parker 3.

TOTAL: 39.

Coach: J. Marston.

Match rating: * * *

Bracklow (Holmick 15 min. 4), Trkulja 3, Boskovski 3, Velkovski 3, Nacinovic 3, McDonald 3, Alagich 4, Mihajlovic 2, Simpson 3, Takac 3, Perry 3.

TOTAL: 34.

Coach: S. Dacevski.

Maglis 4, Barr 3, Radic 4, Barboutis 4, Bell 4, Stowell 3, Muniz 4, Harding 5, Brankin 4, Buckley 3 (Carrizzo 41 min.), Ile 4.

TOTAL: 42.

Coach: J. Kalageros.

Match rating: * * * * *

Corry 3, Wignall 3, M. Harris 3, Brady 4, Yaeger 3, Whalley 4, Sullivan 3, Nixon 4, Crone 3 (Huntley 50 min.), Smith 4, Vojtek 4.

TOTAL: 38.

Coach: M. Kiss.

Fraser 4, Utjesenovic 5, G. Harris 4, Schaefer 4, Cotton 4, Stoddart 4, Herron 4, Abonyi 4, Morgan (replaced Warren 26 min.) 3, R. Harris 4, McDonald 4.

TOTAL: 44.

Coach: M. Johnson.

Match rating: * * *

Hawthorne 3, G. Brown 2 (H. Xipolitas 48 min.), Hardy 3, Henderson 2, J. Xipolitas 3, Balafas 3, Armytage 3, R. Brown 2 (Piatta 41 min.), Pocock 2, Mullen 3, Welton 2.

TOTAL: 26.

Coach: L. Hegyes.

Roberts 4, McGinn 4, Jenkins 3, Wallace 3, McGhee 4, Russell 4, Blues 3, Rooney 4, Ollerton 3, Rogers 3, Butler 3 (Del Forno 53 min.).

TOTAL: 38.

Coach: T. Anderson.

Match rating: * * *

Madaschi 4, Bibby 3, Mowbray 4, Watkiss 3, Marnoch 4, Mackay 3, Fekete 4, Baartz 3, Fletcher 3, Wong 3 (Watson, second half, 3), Morrow 3.

TOTAL: 37.

Coach: D. McLaren.

Eaton 4, Perry 4, Ferguson 3, Radcliffe 4, Curran 4, Gray 3, Byles 2, Turner 2, Lindsay 4, T. Smith 2, Edmundson 2 (replaced by G. Smith, 3, at half time).

TOTAL: 34.

Coach: I. Schinfulg.

Match rating: * * *

Maher 5, Branson 3, Bennett 4, P. Smith 4, Wykes 4, Johnston 2, Griffiths 2, Trail 3, Jordan 2, Bourke 2, Suggett 2 (replaced by Thompson, 2, at half time).

TOTAL: 33.

Coach: J. Livingstone.

Murray 5, Degney 3, Robertson 4, Roche 4, Moschen 4, Richards 3, Jones 4, Campbell 4, Mihajlovic 3, Byrne 3, Griffiths 3.

TOTAL: 40.

Coach: L. Baumgartner.

Match rating: * * * * *

Hesford 3, Roberts 3, Wilson 4, Tuckerman 3, Gleeson 3, Bingham 4, Fryer 4, McGrotty 3, Tolson 4, Alston 5, Walker 3.

TOTAL: 39.

Coach: P. Wilson.

SUMMING UP THE MATCHES

A disjointed Yugal-Prague started on the wrong foot, and even late in the second half when they were doing better — comparatively speaking — they were never a threat to Auburn. The Mona Park brigade started well by unexpectedly finding the goal inside 30 seconds from the kick-off, when Derek Sidey must have been nonplussed by the ease with which he slid through the Yugal "defence". Frank Malone was on hand to wrap it all up by the 15th minute with two delightful goals, and Jimmy Stewart got the fourth 15 minutes before the end. Jimmy is one of those rare souls who revels in long distance shots, anything up to 50 metres, and on this occasion his left boot sunk the ball high, wide and handsome from 25 metres out. Auburn coach Joe Marston must have enjoyed the second-half sideshow, when young Stephen Leak and Co. tidied up the defence with a minimum of bother.

Crowd: 5,229 (double-header). Referee: A. Boskovic.

— KEITH GILMORE

Both Pan Hellenic and Croatia played the first half with all the verve in the world, but it was a brilliant Pan Hellenic who held on to crack the winning goal and also maintain their snappy formation to the end. After Muniz had helped to set a splendid pace for Hellenic, it was confident striker David Harding who slammed a first timer into his opponent's goal. Derek Smith made an absolute certainty of South's equaliser after Robert Barr had handled in the box. Danger man Joe Nixon was allowed little latitude by Pan Hellenic's defence, and it was left to young Jim Whalley to create Croatia's openings through the midfield. The crowd tempo reached fever pitch when Peter Brankin netted the winner for Pan Hellenic. Croatia performed wonders in the first half, but they must need some extra cover of first team players to meet the inevitable calls of injury. First-class matches such as this will really fill the terraces.

Crowd: 5,229 (double-header). Referee: T. Davies.

— KEITH GILMORE

After six minutes it was all over already for Canterbury. Down 0-2, they were quickly demoralised into conceding a defeat of catastrophic proportions. Saints' task, however, was made immensely easier by referee Barry Wilkinson, who awarded three penalties against the Bernies, the first two of which looked a bit harsh from where I was sitting. Attila Abonyi made Federation history by becoming the first First Division player to score a hat-trick of penalties in one game. To cap off his scoring feat, he also scored Saints' seventh and final goal. The penalties notwithstanding, Canterbury's weaknesses were mercilessly exposed by a St. George team which played some delightful football. Their defence collapsed like a pack of cards and their forwards, including Pocock, didn't get a proper kick at goal all afternoon.

Crowd: 5,455 (double-header). Referee: B. Wilkinson.

— LOU GAUTIER

A very tight match which came to life only in the dying stages to enable APIA to score the 67th minute goal they needed for a play-off with Croatia. APIA's win was deserved. They had four scoring chances to Hakoah's two, and all but ran their opponents off their feet in the last five minutes when the crowd, at last, had something to get excited about. Hakoah confirmed their decline with yet another insipid display. Something will have to be done soon, otherwise the 1973 champions will be history this year. APIA have few weaknesses, but they could do with more flair. High balls pumped at Ollerton and Rogers might not always pay off.

Crowd: 5,455 (double-header). Referee: P. Rampley.

— LOU GAUTIER

Despite the lack of interest in the result, Wests and Sutherland slugged it out in no uncertain manner. It was a fast game, with the ball moving from one end of the field to the other, but to no avail as both sets of forwards were dreadful. Wests had the lion's share of the ball through their mastery in midfield where Radcliffe and Curran were a dominant force. However, they never took full advantage of the situation as their attacks were easily broken up by the courageous Sutherland defence. Col Bennett and Peter Wykes were as solid as a rock, but once again, Sutherland's man of the match was goalkeeper Alan Maher.

Crowd: 2,056 (double-header). Referee: A. McKenzie.

— CHARLES SPITERI

An entertaining game which served up plenty of thrills and spills and some very intelligent football which kept the crowd on its toes. It was unfortunate that Safeway had to be the losers in a match which couldn't have been more balanced. Adrian Alston was, in shall we say, one of his "rare" moods, firing on all cylinders, with good support from Bingham and Fryer. Marconi, playing with a reshuffled side, matched Safeway in both speed and skill, and the match most entertaining. Ernie Campbell and Barry Jones were a constant menace in attack, but most impressive were Alfredo Moschen and Bill Murray, the latter with some very fine saves to his credit.

Crowd: 2,056 (double-header). Referee: G. Warne.

— CHARLES SPITERI

LETTER FROM NEWCASTLE

"Soccer World's" high standards of football journalism deserves the respect it enjoys from sports enthusiasts.

Indeed, it was pleasing to read Keith Gilmour's timely comments on the Northern scene two weeks ago.

As president of the Newcastle-based Northern NSW Federation since January 1973, I am proud of our achievements and since that date Northern Directors have endeavoured to jolt the complacency and amateurish attitude to the game in our region.

The "weekend footballer" is disappearing and clubs are beginning to realise the necessity of a more professional approach, better coaching and additional practice sessions.

Keith Gilmour quotes my comment that "Newcastle could not afford to be out of a National League, if it comes".

Whether we, or any other National League candidate actually can afford the vision is open to conjecture.

RESPECT

However, I fully respect the leadership of ASF president, Sir Arthur George (and thank goodness he is at the helm) and appreciate the paramount reason for the introduction of a National League, namely, soccer should emerge number one in football popularity in every State.

"Soccer World" draws attention to Northern NSW's 2-4 loss to Persija Jakarta.

Perhaps it is fair to state the Northern side had a lay-off from last season of two months, had restricted opportunities for practice and lacked match play prior to the Persija clash.

The Northern side led Persija 2-0 at the interval and appeared well on top until five Northern reserves were introduced in the second stanza.

The North's display against Ferencvaros would have squashed any doubts as to the quality of our representative side.

The North led the visitors on two occasions, before losing 2-4.

Newcastle will be a powerful force in a National League.

We gave the national team Col Curran and Ray Bartz.

PRODUCTS

A top Sydney club side playing here recently had four of our products in its team.

About 15 Northern players have been approached by Sydney clubs this year.

I support Peter Thraves' contention that Newcastle could yield attendances of 10,000 to 20,000, but it will take a few years to mature.

However, I certainly disagree with Keith Gilmour's thoughts on the introduction of our 14-team competition last season.

Most Northern club officials will claim it assisted in the tremendous uplift of Newcastle soccer in 1973, that it did bring forward a number of new prospects, that it did enhance the standard of Northern soccer, that it helped produce increased attendances and introduced a far greater measure of financial stability for clubs and players.

Incidentally, at our recent Annual General Meeting, a motion by one of the clubs to reduce the First Division to twelve teams lapsed for the want of a seconder.

ALAN LAMB,
Newcastle.

Northern Districts v. Marrickville 1-0

Northern win first promotion play-off

— By CHARLES SPITERI —

Experience and fitness gave Northern Districts the edge in the first play-off against Marrickville at Englefield Stadium last Sunday, but the series for promotion to Second Division is by no means over.

The match, won by Northern Districts 1-0, was a closely fought encounter which could have gone either way until the last minute, but there is no doubt that the best team won on the day.

Despite earlier statements, Northern Districts did manage to retain or replace some of their more experienced players, and this decidedly swayed the result their way.

Northern's line-up included Graeme Mackinnon and Russell Haggart, both with First Division experience, and Cliff McDermott and Jim Davies, both from the Second Division.

Marrickville's only experience in the side was provided by George McCulloch, who is also coach of the outfit.

Northern Districts, which kept up its training throughout the summer under coach "Uncle Joe" Vlasis, showed method in their play and the cohesion between defence and attack frustrated their poorly conditioned opponents.

Pushing the ball through their young wingers, Ian Brown on the right, and 16-year-old John Ramischo on the left, Northern Districts created havoc at times in front of the Marrickville goalmouth, particularly with strikers Mackinnon and Jim Davies in good form.

Both peppered the Marrickville goal from all angles and only a brilliant display by the young goalkeeper Nick Horiatopoulos and in the 22nd minute John victory.

The game was only three minutes old when Horiatopoulos made his first save off Ian Brown from 10 metres out, but this was only the beginning and 12 minutes later he made a mighty effort to clear off an angled shot from just under the bar by Mackinnon.

At this stage Marrickville was relying on breakaways and in the 22nd minute John McDonald had to dive full length to get at a McCulloch shot beside the left hand post.

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However, Northern Districts came back swiftly in attack and in a clever movement involving several players, Davies was unlucky not to score as his shot was cleared off the line by Roberto Murua with the goalkeeper well beaten.

As the game progressed the Marrickville defence started to tire, but their long balls up front were still effective and nearly got a goal in the 36th minute when speedy winger Gordon Makin slammed the crossbar with a hard drive from close range.

Although not at his best, McCulloch tried hard to rally his team after the interval, but he had little support, particularly from his tiring defence.

As the game slowed down slightly in the second half, play became harder and re-

free Ken Small three times took out his book to jot down the names of two players from Marrickville and one from Northern Districts for various offences.

Eleven minutes into the second half John Davies gave Northern their win when, from a counter-attack, he eluded the defence, including Horiatopoulos, to score in an empty net.

With 12 minutes to go, Gordon Makin missed the chance of a life-time to score the equaliser desperately sought by his team when he failed to connect with a perfect pass by the hard working Norman Hanlon.

But the save of the match was made in the 81st minute when, from point-blank range, Horiatopoulos stuck his foot out to deflect a sizzling header by left half Glass into corner.

For the winners, Ramischo and Brown showed a lot of potential, but the team clicked around the clever work of Davies and Mackinnon, who were in great form.

For the losers, young full-back John Brettie, Andy Pondekas and Gordon Makin gave impressive performances, not forgetting the outstanding display by Nick Horiatopoulos.

The return match will be at Mackay Park, Tempe, this Sunday and despite Northern Districts' advantage, the series is still open and a third game is a distinct possibility.

Northern Districts: McDonald, Consentino, C. McDermott, Scott, Haggart, Glass, S. McDermott, Mackinnon, Brown, Davies (D), Ramischo, Marrickville: Horiatopoulos, Hardy, Brettie, Murua, Pondekas, Hanlon, Makin, McCulloch, Ramsey (Henshaw), Mc Gill, Gould.

RICH ROTHMAN'S STATE CUP STARTS IN APRIL

— By KEITH GILMOUR —

First Division clubs will enter the \$18,000 Rothman's Cup in Round 8, set down for Wednesday nights September 11 and 18.

Round 9 will be contested on Wednesdays, September 25 and October 2, semifinals on Sunday, October 6, and the final on October 13.

More interest could be packed into the semifinal round if one match were set down for the Saturday night.

Dependent upon the competing sides, grounds such as Marconi Oval, Woomera Oval, Redfern Oval, or Garfield Park would be worthy of consideration.

It would also be worthwhile testing the future availability of the Sydney Sports Ground for early October fixtures.

No hide, no Christmas box!

The Trust is now aware of soccer's potential, and they have as much to gain as we do.

Early rounds from Easter Monday, April 15, will feature Inter-Suburban, Western NSW, District Association teams, as well as the Illawarra and Far South Coast.

Illawarra District sides are on the warpath, contending that their competition should be regarded as a regional league, on par with the Sydney Second Division.

They wish to enter the Cup at the same time as Second Division.

The Rothman's Cup could do with Riviera representation, and more teams than only two from the developing Canberra area.

The tentative draw places Round 2 on May 4/5, Round 3 on Anzac Day (April 25), and Round 4 on June 15/16.

Second and Third Division teams enter the competition on June 29/30 for Round 5.

Now that a major firm has backed the series its success is guaranteed.

Some first-class promotion would hammer home the World Cup participation bit, right at the club level where improvement is needed.

No imagination is needed to see that the demand is there, and within two years this competition should spread its wings to cover every nook and cranny of NSW and Northern NSW's furthest points can be expected to clamor for inclusion.

WATCH STAN'S TOONGABBIE GO!

Out Toongabbie way it all comes easy — whether it is shooting or 'chuting.

The club is arranging for four parachutists, decked out in the Gabbie colors, to land at Girraween Park for the first home game of the year.

Apart from that, captain-coach Stan Ackenley, who enjoyed an off-season trip to England with his family, is in charge of the team.

Toongabbie is bound to be one of the top sides in this year's Inter Suburban First Division.

Included in their ranks once again will be Laurie and Robert Parkhouse, and the reliable ex-Prague star, Billy Reilly.

The club's 1972 coach, Joe Kane, rang through from England recently to wish the team well.

Joe, now married and father of a baby daughter, is thinking of holidaying back in Sydney in the English closed season.

Toongabbie club has now received local Council approval for the plans of the new club house, and an approach to the Licensing Court is due shortly.

— KEITH GILMOUR

COOK'S TOUR OF MELBOURNE

The Ampol Cup reaches a decisive stage this Saturday night with the sixth round fixtures involving the two top sides, Melbourne and Alexander, whose pairings strongly favor both to win and clinch places in the semifinals.

The fixtures are: Wilhelmina v. Melbourne and Alexander v. Juventus.

Hakoah have been angling after a Jewish forward who has been getting some good Press write-ups in top Scottish amateur soccer, and who has been interesting a leading club in Israel. So far, there have been no developments, but the Middle Park side could be more successful for a winger who was on the books of a Scottish First Division side and recently played in Hong Kong.

The Noordenne Cup, which is always a crowd-puller in the Western Suburbs, is again in full swing and the competition is graced by quite a number of State League clubs and a wide representation of sides from the Metro Leagues. Games are played on both Saturdays and Sundays.

First Division Metro club Green Gully Ajax, whose president is Lou Strathairn, the former well-known referee, made several thousand dollars profit on their workings last year and are bent in getting promotion to the State League this year. And so are Preston Makedonia and Albion Rovers, plus probably some of the others, so this should be an exciting competition this year.

MONEY-HUNGRY PLAYERS

Considerable unrest exists among a few players in the State League who are waging war with their clubs continually over money matters. I have spoken to two leading officials from different clubs recently on this matter and they say that in no circumstances can they afford to dig any deeper to satisfy increasing monetary demands. And they gave me the indication that if it comes to a showdown in dropping the players in question so that they will then have to survive on the pittance they get for training sessions only. Some players think that such moves would assure them of a transfer to Sydney. But they had better think again. For it's been obvious over the years the Sydney clubs only want the best of our players and not any "Tom, Dick or Harry."

Billy Kerklau, who has been with a string of clubs both in Victoria and NSW, is still popping up and he was in the Slavia line-up which accounted for Billy's first Australian team, Wilhelmina, recently.

First Division sides in the Metropolitan League will each be permitted to play two Sunday matches this season.

Morrie Buckner, soccer writer for the "Sun" for over 20 years, recently ended his career of reporting the round ball game. A suitable presentation is being arranged by those connected with the game to mark his retirement.

John O'Neill, the former Preston North End and Eire international defender who gave great service to Hakoah, is now the coach of ambitious First Division Frankston City.

ANTI-SOCCER BIAS

Once again remarkable bias against soccer appears to be in evidence after the 1973 "Age" - Caltex Star of the Year details were announced. Fourteen of Victoria's sportsmen and sportswomen were nominated by a panel covering January to December 1973 and almost every conceivable sports except soccer gained representation during the months to go forward for the finals last Wednesday week. Evidently, they have conveniently forgotten or don't care to remember that in late 1973 Australia won their way through to the 1974 World Cup through a goal by Jim Mackay which takes them to West Germany to compete in the greatest sporting competition in the world.

Fans should maybe bear this in mind next time they buy a paper or petrol . . . (The similar contest in Sydney — sponsored by the "Mirror" — did not forget soccer — Peter Wilson was one of the 12 finalists. — Editor).

Well-informed Scottish reports say there is no substance to a story circulating in Melbourne that Joe Cunningham, the 22-year-old George Cross striker who scored 33 goals last season in league and cup soccer, has been offered trials with Aberdeen Football Club.

A couple of years ago one would have been hard-pressed to take in a soccer game in Bendigo and district. Now the round-ball game is booming in the old gold town and its surrounding areas and their eight-club league of 1973 has been increased 25 per cent this year with the addition of teams from Echuca, Castlemaine, Eaglehawk and Strathdale.

— JIM COOK

FOR THE HOLIDAY OF A LIFETIME

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SOUTH SYDNEY-CROATIA S.F.C.

All young players interested in playing grade football are invited to attend training with the above club.

Training is held from 6.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at Erskineville Oval, and Fridays at Alexandria Park.

L. Brown
Hon. Secretary
Tel.: 42-3511 (a.h.)